

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 25-26 are pending. Claims 25 -26 are new claims.

1. 35 U.S.C. § 102(a):

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 10-11 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Lin U.S. Patent Application 2002/0122712.

It is submitted that Lin U.S. Patent Application 2002/0122712 does not anticipate the present invention. Lin U.S. Patent Application 2002/0122712 was published on September 5, 2002.

The current application was filed on December 20, 2001 and claims the benefit of priority of U.S. provisional patent application 60/290,299, filed May 11, 2001.

For 35 U.S.C 102(a) to apply, the reference must have a publication date earlier in time than the effective filing date of the application. (MPEP §706.02(a)).

Because Lin U.S. Patent Application 2002/0122712 does have a publication date earlier in time than the effective filing date of the application, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) be withdrawn.

2. Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin '920.

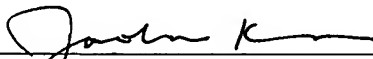
Lin '920 alone fails to render obvious the present invention. Lin '920 does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Lin '920 does not disclose a generally planar member having a pair of generally opposed surfaces and an aperture therebetween disposed at an engaging region; a coupling member having an external thread set and having a complementary portion for engaging the aperture of the planar member; and a non-planar member having an internal thread set adapted to engage the external thread set of the coupling member thereby connecting the non-planar member to the planar member, wherein portions of the pair of generally opposed surfaces of the planar member extend into the thread set of the non-planar member, and wherein the planar member has more than one aperture.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the pending claims and arguments. Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, the subject application is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is kindly requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss these claims further, or should an Examiner's Amendment be needed in order for the claims to proceed to allowance, the Examiner is invited to direct any questions regarding this application to John Klos at (612) 321-2806.

Respectfully submitted,
Tennant Company, by its attorneys,

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